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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 28, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 19 totaled an estimated 16.5 billion ton-miles, 11.7 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 51 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 903.6 billion ton-miles, 0.3 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 19 totaled 382,899 cars, 13.8 percent below 1980, and 5.8 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 11.7 percent in the East, 12.6 percent in the South, and 15.9 percent in the West.

Twenty of the 21 commodity groups were down from the corresponding week of 1980, although coal loadings were up 0.3 percent. Eighteen of the 21 groups were down from the previous week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended December 12 totaled 34,822 cars, up 2.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 64,890 trailers and/or containers, up 5.7 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of the year was 1,646,269 cars, 2.5 percent higher than last year, and 2,996,535 trailers and/or containers, 2.8 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/19/81:

	Loadings in Week ended December 19, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,330	D	7,556	24.5	D	1,054	4.3
Other farm products	4,544	D	759	14.3	D	1,173	20.5
Metallic ores	22,624	D	7,413	24.7	D	1,224	5.1
Coal	122,130	I	397	0.3	D	4,885	3.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,903	D	2,218	21.9	D	1,964	19.9
Nonmetallic minerals	11,492	D	1,476	11.4	I	729	6.8
Grain mill products	12,529	D	4,057	24.5	D	581	4.4
Food and kindred products	14,094	D	2,025	12.6	D	429	3.0
Primary forest products	14,743	D	4,511	23.4	D	3,984	21.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,162	D	2,821	31.4	I	164	2.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	17,801	D	2,641	12.9	D	189	1.1
Chemicals and allied products	22,006	D	7,258	24.8	D	690	3.0
Petroleum products	5,172	D	329	6.0	I	91	1.8
Stone, clay and glass products	9,514	D	4,140	30.3	D	1,833	16.2
Coke	5,289	D	377	6.7	D	498	8.6
Metals and products	11,648	D	3,766	24.4	D	400	3.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	13,238	D	1,678	11.2	D	1,871	12.4
Waste and scrap materials	8,544	D	5,101	37.4	D	1,257	12.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,832	D	1,891	17.6	D	501	5.4
All other carloads	41,139	D	1,455	3.4	D	1,906	4.4
LCL traffic	165	D	89	35.0	D	99	37.5
Total Cars Loaded	382,899	D	61,164	13.8	D	23,554	5.8
Corresponding week of 1980	444,063						

	1981	1980	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (51 weeks)	21,363,505	22,311,580	D 4.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
50 Weeks cumulative	887.1	887.5	D 0.0
Week ended December 19	16.5	18.7	D 11.7
51 Weeks cumulative	903.6	906.1	D 0.3

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